

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:116

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005

CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTERS

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting of all the State Ministers of Education with Union Human Resource Development Minister was held in Bangalore in the month of January,2005;
- (b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed therein and the decisions arrived at;
- (c) the final decision taken, if any, particularly in regard to functioning of foreign universities in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has laid down any comprehensive set of guidelines to ensure accountability and regulate the quality of education they offer; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI):

- (a) to (e) A Conference of the State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education was held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005 mainly to discuss
 - (i) admission and fixation of tuition fee for professional education through self-financing private institutions;
 - (ii) regulation of private universities; and
 - (iii) entry of foreign universities in India. There was a general consensus among the states for a Central Legislation regarding the issue relating to admission and regulation of fee. However, any consensus on the contents of the proposed Legislation, as well as the issue relating to the regulation of private universities needs wider discussions. As regards the issue relating to entry of foreign universities, the Government has constituted a Committee of Experts to-
 - (a) examine the need, relevance, terms and scope of the entry and operations by foreign universities including the options of collaboration between Indian Universities and foreign universities; and
 - (b) suggest an appropriate mechanism relating to access and quality in respect of foreign universities, if permitted to operate in India.